

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PSC: NATURAL GAS CONSUMERS NEED TO USE CONSERVATION PLAN**

LINCOLN – Recent spikes in the wholesale cost of natural gas have prompted the Nebraska Public Service Commission to remind consumers that following a conservation plan during the heating season will help them save dollars.

Several factors decide the wholesale cost of gas, including the price paid on the futures market, lower-than-normal temperatures, supply shortages, and the reserves being held in storage. The natural gas price increased almost 50 percent in less than a month since late November, First District Commissioner Frank Landis of Lincoln said.

“Nebraska gas companies are entitled to recover the cost of natural gas purchased for delivery to customers,” Landis said. “This cost is often referred to as a ‘pass through’ because the companies do not profit on the commodity price of the gas.”

Laura Demman, director of the PSC’s Natural Gas Department, said considerations that will help consumers minimize the impact of high natural gas bills include:

- Reducing the thermostat at night or when the house is unoccupied during the day.
- Keeping the thermostat no higher than 68 degrees. Every degree over 68 will increase heating costs by three percent.
- Changing furnace filters at least twice annually and more often if they become dirty.



There are several other measures for consumers to employ, Demman said, but the important thing to remember is the amount of gas used is the primary component of how high the monthly bill will be.

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